

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7290

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS, SUBJ; AND E.O. OMMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, PINT, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION PARTIES ON AEGEAN IMBROGLIO

1. ALL TOGETHER EXPECTEDLY, THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE RALLYING TO THE GREEK FLAG IN THE CURRENT DISPUTE WITH TURKEY OVER THE SAILING OF THE SISMIK I. HOWEVER THEY ARE DOING SO IN A MANNER WHICH DISPLAYS A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES AND THEIR LEADERS AND ALSO LIMNS THE KIND OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES BEING PLACED ON THE GOG.

2. A CHIEF SOURCE OF THESE PRESSURES IS PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU WHO JOURNEYED TO THE ISLAND OF MYTILINI-- IN THE HEART OF THE DISPUTED AREA--TO MAKE A FIRE-EATING, AGGRESSIVE AND IRRESPONSIBLE SPEECH ON THE AEGEAN. ASSERTING THAT THE "AEGEAN IS GREEK," PAPANDREOU ATTACKED THE GOG FOR SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE ISSUES THERE. AS IS HIS CUSTOM LATELY, HE CALLED ON THE GOG TO ASSERT ITS RIGHT TO A TWELVE-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT FOR ITS ISLANDS AND TO WITHDRAW ITS OFFER TO GO TO THE THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL COURT TO OBTAIN A SETTLEMENT OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES. THUS, IN PAPANDREOUS VIEW, ANY NEGOTIATION OF THE MAXIMAL GREEK POSITION CONSTITUTES AN CONFIDENTIAL

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UNACCEPTABLE CONCESSION. HAVING STATED THAT THERE IS A "PROBABILITY" OF WAR BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND HAVING DECLARED THAT THE AEGEAN IS A "POLITICAL/ MILITARY RATHER THAN LEGAL" PROBLEM, PAPANDREOU ANNOUNCED HIS

CONFIDENCE THAT THE ARMED FORCES OF GREECE WOULD MEET THE TURKISH CHALLENGE. PAPANDREOU BLAMED THE PROBLEMS OF THE AEGEAN ON "TURKISH CHAUVINISM" AND AMERICAN/NATO MACHINATIONS, THE LATTER ALLEGEDLY DESIGNED TO MAKE TURKEY THE POLICEMAN OF THE AEGEAN.

3. PAPANDREOUS CHAUVINISM AND BELLICOSITY GAVE HIM, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, CENTER STAGE AS THE GREEK OPPOSITION PARTIES MANEUVERED FOR POSITION. GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, THE LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTY, HAS SO FAR BEEN LEFT IN THE SHADOWS AS HE ATTEMPTS THE ROLE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION. HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT JULY 16 WAS RELATIVELY MODERATE, HEWS CLOSELY TO THE GOG LINE AND SEEKS TO MAKE TWO POINTS. THE FIRST OF THESE IS SO INDIRECTLY STATED THAT IT IS RATHER OBSCURE, BUT MAVROS SUGGESTED THAT WHILE THE TURKS HAVE A RIGHT TO SAIL IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND SAIL AND DO RESEARCH IN TURKISH WATERS, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BELOW WHAT IS AGREED TO BE INTERNATIONAL WATERS BELONGS TO GREECE. THE SECOND POINT MAVROS MADE WAS THAT THE TURKS SHOULD ACCEPT A SOLUTION OF THE ISSUE THROUGH APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND NOT THROUGH THE USE OF VIOLENCE. (COMMENT: IN HIS TALK THE DAY BEFORE WITH STAFFDEL RICHARDSON AND BYREN, MAVROS, WHO OBVIOUSLY IS BEING KEPT WELL BRIEFED BY THE GOG, FOLLOWED THE SAME GENERAL LINE BUT WAS MORE EXPLICIT IN EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN THAT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES COULD LEAD TO A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION. AN INHERENTLY NON VIOLENT MAN, MAVROS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF PUSHED GREECE WOULD FIGHT. MAVROS DWELT FOR SOME TIME ON THE UNDESIRABLE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A CONFLICT, NOT THE LEAST, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD BE THE INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE AEGEAN.)

4. THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR (KKE-EXTERIOR), CLOSELY TIED TO MOSCOW, IS USING THE AEGEAN ISSUE TO PLUG ITS FAVORITE LINE: THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT GREECE FROM THE "IMPERIALISTS IS TO REORIENT THE COUNTRY'S
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FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS MOSCOW.

5. THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR (KKE-INTERIOR) AND EDA, HAVE ANNOUNCED--IN EFFECT-- THAT THE HOUR HAS COME FOR ALL TO RALLY AROUND THE GREEK GOVT. THE INTERIOR ALSO CALLED ON THE GOG TO TAKE THE WHOLE MATTER TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT THE TURKS UP TO THEIR "AGGRESSIVENESS."
KUBISCH

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